

KEY THEMES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

CHURCH RESET!
The Hand of God in the Early Church and Ours



**How God's
Family Grows
(The Local Church)**

ACTS 2:42-6:7



Message Guide | January 24, 2021

Church Reset

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SERMON SERIES

TODAY'S MESSAGE | JANUARY 24, 2021

How God's Family Grows (The Local Church)

Acts 2:42-6:7

We are looking at one of the most exciting times in the history of the early church, its exponential growth as – both corporately and individually – the church had a laser-like focus on what it was teaching and what it wanted to achieve. This was by the congregation as a whole and not just its leadership.

When we compare how they grew then, to the stale, lifeless way that many churches today are proceeding, we realize we have so much to learn and so far to go. But growth for growth's sake is also dangerous if we grow in the wrong way. So let's look at why the early church grew so fast *and* so well:

CHURCHES GROW THE RIGHT WAY WHEN THE CONGREGATION IS FOCUSED: They were focused on becoming a people of God.

They “devoted themselves” to:

- 1) **“The Apostles’ Teaching”**: We must never be apologetic or bashful about emphasizing sound teaching and sound doctrine. What we must be careful of is to not practice what we know. Doctrine is always practical!
- 2) **“The Fellowship”**: This fellowship occurred in both big gatherings (at the Temple, “pasture”) and small (house to house, “sheep pens”).
- 3) **“The Breaking of Bread”**: Worship through the Lord’s Supper or Communion was a regular feature. The emphasis was on reminding believers of God’s grace through the Cross.
- 4) **“The Prayers”**: Prayer was a constant feature of the early church. The strength of a church is best measured by its prayer life.



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They were not after numbers. They never were. But the church grew because as they faithfully did what was right, God sovereignly “added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

The same God who does the saving, does the adding.

CHURCHES GROW THE RIGHT WAY WHEN CHURCH LEADERS ARE FOCUSED: They were focused on leading people to God.

- 1) **The leaders do the works of God** (Acts 3:1-10; Acts 5:29, 42; Acts 6:1-7).
- 2) **The leaders give glory to God** (Acts 3:12, 16; Acts 4:20)
- 3) **The leaders (by words and example) deliver the message of God** (Acts 3:19; Acts 4:12; Acts 5:42; Acts 6:4)

FINAL THOUGHTS

Churches grow because Jesus is focused on keeping His Word when He said “I will build my church”. This explains Acts 6:7 “And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith”.

Nobody wants to be part of a losing cause. So when the church is alive and on fire it creates a self-perpetuating cycle that attracts people, and sends out people who bring in people and who start new ministries in new areas. This is exactly what happened in the early church! Who says it can't happen to us today?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In view of Acts 2:42-47, what should our church be doing more of? What should our church be doing less? Explain your answer to the rest of the group.
2. Are you already part of a Growth Group (or similar small group for spiritual growth and accountability)? Why or why not? What are the disadvantages for people in a megachurch who are not part of one?
3. Pray seriously about your part in our church's growth and future. While no one is indispensable, everyone is important. Ask God for help in discerning your important place and to make your contribution to God's Kingdom Agenda and the growth of His spiritual family, our church.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

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Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts. Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.

GCF RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR #UlyssesPH VICTIMS

We are accepting CASH donations for the typhoon victims. Email a copy of your transaction slip to **finance@gcf.org.ph** with the subject "Typhoon Ulysses"



CHURCH UPDATES



ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

MEMBERSHIP INFO UPDATE

Got a New Email Address?
Update your GCF Membership Info today!
Visit bit.ly/GCFMemberUpdate now.



REPEAT ELECTIONS FOR CHURCH LEADERS

Vote online and on-site from January 17 to 31, 2021
Visit election.gcf.org.ph for more details.



GCF 43RD ANNIVERSARY | WEEKLONG ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

February 8 to 14 | Prayer and Fasting, Sunday Worship Service, Family Fellowship

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

To know more about the safety guidelines and restrictions, and to reserve a seat, visit tinyurl.com/GCFreservation.

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Mondays and Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF Facebook and YouTube

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS

Every Wednesday starting January 20 | 8:00 p.m.
Livestream on GCF Young Adults Facebook and GCF Main YouTube

LIVEstream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 1:00 p.m. | on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | 9 p.m. | via Zoom

FRONTLINER GROWTH GROUP (MIXED (AGE 35 TO 65))

Saturday | 8:30 p.m. | via Zoom | with Pastor Erik Dizon

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY!

Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | Instagram: [gcf.ortigas](https://www.instagram.com/gcf.ortigas)
Youtube/Viber: GCF Main

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

Are you joining us for the first time? We would love to get to know you more! Visit bit.ly/GCFwelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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